**Disabled Writers Commissions 2025**

**Deaf and Disabled Writer Commissions**

Spread the Word is pleased to announce that applications are now open for London-based deaf and disabled writers to apply for Spread the Word’s Deaf and Disabled Writers’ Commissions, as part of our 30th Anniversary commissioning programme.

The deadline for applications is: **1pm on Monday 7th October 2024**.

**These commissions aim to showcase new work by three London-based deaf and disabled writers, and provide a developmental and profile-raising opportunity.**

We also have commissioning opportunities available for London-based emerging writers. For more information visit: spreadttheword.org.uk/anniversary-commissions. If eligible, writers are welcome to apply for both commissions.

**Who are the commissions for?**

London-based deaf and disabled writers aged 18+ who are writing poetry, fiction, narrative non-fiction or writing for performance.

The commissions are for deaf and disabled writers who are committed to developing their writing and to taking forward their writing careers.

By deaf and/ or disabled we mean people who have faced disablist and/ or audist barriers. This includes: Deaf, deaf and hard-of-hearing people, blind and visually impaired people, people with mobility impairments, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions or experience of mental distress, and/ or learning disabilities, neurodivergent people, and people living with chronic health conditions or impairments.

We particularly welcome applications from deaf and disabled writers from the following communities: Black, Asian, Global Majority; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQIA+); working class or from a working-class upbringing; care experienced; and Deaf BSL speakers.

**For full eligibility criteria, please see our** [**Ts&Cs**](https://www.spreadtheword.org.uk/30th-anniversary-deaf-and-disabled-writer-commissions-terms-and-conditions/)**.**

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**About the commissions**

Three writers will be commissioned to create a short original piece of work. This work can be entirely new or be developed from existing work which has not been published or produced.

The commissions have an open brief and there is no theme which the work has to respond to. Pieces can be for publication, performance, visual display, audio etc. Mentoring and development support will be given to support writers to realise their ideas.

The commission development period will run from November 2024 to February 2025. The commissioned work will be launched both in print and live at the 2025 Deptford Literature Festival on Saturday 29 March 2025.

An access fund is in place to make reasonable adjustments.

A small activation budget is also available, if required, to support writers in presenting their work at Deptford Literature Festival. For example using audio or film, or additional readers. Please note this budget is limited and can help support how work is presented, but is not sufficient to cover, for example, a full stage production.

We are looking to commission writers who can show a clear idea of what they want to do for this piece of work, that is realistic to deliver within the timeframe and resources available.

**Commissioned writers will each receive:**

* £1,000 commission fee
* Access to commission activation budget
* Two sessions with a mentor
* One to one development and production support from Spread the Word
* Publication of their work in the Deptford Literature Festival magazine
* A platform to showcase their work to an audience at Deptford Literature Festival and online

**Commissioned writers will be expected to:**

* Produce a piece of previously unpublished and unproduced work
* Meet project deadlines, including a deadline for print publication
* Showcase the commissioned work at an event as part of the 2025 Deptford Literature Festival on Saturday 29 March 2025
* Take part in a panel discussion as part of the festival about your work, creative practice and the process of being commissioned
* Support the promotion of the completed commissions

**Commission judges**

The commissions will be judged by Ayesha Chouglay and Joe Rizzo Naudi.

**Commissions timeline:**

**Mon 7 Oct, 1pm** - Applications close

**By Fri 18 Oct** - All applicants are notified with the outcome of their submission

**Wednesday 23 Oct** - shortlisted writers are invited to short online interview

**Sat 29 Mar** - commissions launched at the Deptford Literature Festival event and in the festival magazine (in print and online)

**Preparing to apply**

If it is useful for you, you can view the application form questions and prepare your responses by downloading the [draft application form](https://www.spreadtheword.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/DWC-Postal-Entry-Form.docx)

**How to apply**

**Online**

Please submit your application via [this Submittable link](https://spreadtheword.submittable.com/submit): [spreadtheword.submittable.com/submit](https://spreadtheword.submittable.com/submit)

Written, video or audio responses can be given to any narrative questions. You will need to submit a sample of your work either in written English or via video in English or British Sign Language.

Please note you will need to create a Submittable account to make your online application. This is free to do. If you are having any issues with this, please contact: [hello@spreadtheword.org.uk](mailto:hello@spreadtheword.org.uk)

OR

**Post**

To enter by post, please [download the postal entry form](https://www.spreadtheword.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/DWC-Postal-Entry-Form.docx). Send your completed postal application form along with your sample of your work to: Disabled Writers Commissions, Spread the Word, The Albany, Douglas Way, London, SE8 4AG.

**Postal entries need to reach us by 1pm on Monday 7th October 2024.**

Please note we cannot return your writing sample so please make sure this is a copy of your work. We will email you to acknowledge receipt of your application.

**What happens after you’ve applied**

We will read every submission and invite up to six writers to a short online interview on **Wednesday 23 Oct**.

**Who to contact if you have questions**

If you have any questions about the commissions, please contact: hello@spreadtheword.org.uk.

If you have any questions about access, please contact: Tom at Spread the Word, tom@spreadtheword.org.uk